

## **Keep Knoxville Beautiful**

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This brochure (arranged by City of Knoxville Engineering Department) closely resembles a previous brochure by Keep Knoxville Beautiful.

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### **WATERSHED LITTER PREVENTION**

This brochure provides some suggestions to prevent litter and other types of solid waste from entering our creeks, rivers and lakes “indirectly”. When it rains, anything that is on a street, highway, parking lot or other ground surface will enter the storm water system. You don’t have to throw waste directly into the creek or river to pollute the water. Most of the floatable trash in our creeks, rivers and lakes comes from our city streets and highways after a heavy rain.

### **WHY DO PEOPLE LITTER?**

People litter because:

1. They don’t care.
2. They think that someone else will clean up after them.
3. They are lazy or inconsiderate.

### **WHERE DOES LITTER COME FROM?**

According to **Keep America Beautiful** there are 7 primary sources of litter:

1. Motorists
2. Pedestrians
3. Uncovered trucks
4. Overflowing dumpsters
5. Improperly stored household trash
6. Construction & demolition sites
7. Loading docks

### **EVERYONE CAN HELP PREVENT LITTER**

The easiest way to prevent litter is to care for the earth and obey the law by disposing of all waste properly in a municipal landfill, a waste collection site, or by recycling or reuse. You can also do the following:

1. Never throw any waste from a vehicle – commercial or private.
2. Always use a trash container – even if it means carrying trash until you find one. Never leave trash near a full container.
3. Always secure all truck loads – it is illegal to allow anything to fall or blow from a truck.
4. If your business has a dumpster, secure it from illegal use and empty it promptly when it is full.
5. If your business has a loading dock, provide trash containers and require their use.
6. Always secure your household trash – make sure it is not scattered by weather or animals.

7. If you are in the construction or demolition business, use proper waste handling practices as described in the Build America Beautiful program.

Cleaning up and preventing litter is an easy way that citizens can have an immediate impact on the quality of life in a community. Join a cleanup in your neighborhood. If a cleanup is not planned, then organize one yourself. **Keep Knoxville Beautiful** provides free supplies to anyone doing a cleanup.

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### **THE I SPY ON LITTER PROGRAM**

Call 588-ISPYP (4779) if you see someone deliberately littering, items falling or blowing from an open vehicle, or overflowing commercial or household trash containers. Or report the incident to the “I SPY” program on the website.

Then **Keep Knoxville Beautiful** sends a letter to the owner of the vehicle or property about the harm of littering, to encourage them to refrain from future littering. “**I Spy**” does not publicize the names of anyone involved; the purpose is educational.

Contact the Water Quality Hotline (215-4147) or the Office of Solid Waste (215-2921) for major violations of any pollution laws involving stormwater or solid waste.